

**FRIENDS OF HAMPTON'S BARK PARKS NEWSLETTER  
BARK PARK NEWS  
JANUARY 2005**

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!**

I know we are all looking forward to another great year at the bark parks! Please remember to register your four-legger with the city no later than January 31st to comply with city registration ordinances. You will need your canine's rabies certificate in order to get his/her new city collar tag for 2005. As last year, you will be notified by Parks and Rec as to when your bark park membership is due for renewal this year - please remember to take your canine's complete and current shot record with you (including proof of Bordatella vaccine) in order to renew your bark park membership.

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**BORDATELLA (KENNEL COUGH) ALERT!!!**

Bordatella (kennel cough) is currently making the rounds here in Hampton and throughout the Hampton Roads area as well. Local area vets are asking you to please remember that having the Bordatella vaccination (either nasally or by injection) is like a person getting a flu shot. It doesn't guarantee your canine won't get kennel cough - only that, in most instances, it won't be fatal if they do catch it.

The vets recommend that if your four-legger begins to have a hacking sounding, dry, gagging cough you get them seen right away. According to them the cough escalates rapidly. They ask also that you remember that not all four-leggers in a household may catch kennel cough. Often, only one canine catches it per household of multiple animals.

If you are a bark park member the vets' suggest that you keep your four-legger away from the parks for 14 days after beginning treatment - just to be on the safe side.

Many, many, thanks to those of you responsible Moms and Dads who have suffered through kennel cough with your canines during December and January and stayed away from the park during your four-leggers' recovery. We are very happy that your companions have made it through, are well, and back at the parks with us now!

For more information on Bordatella please call your personal vet.

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**A LETTER FROM DAKOTA'S MOM AND DAD!**

Dear Friends,

Now that the holiday gales have blown past us, Deidre and I want to thank you for the tremendous support you provided while Dakota was missing. We never could have imagined the army of angels that appeared to help us find our dog. We hesitate to mention names, for fear of leaving anyone out, but to give just a few examples: Sam the Shepherd and his dad Mark drove the streets past midnight; Betsy and her grandma walked the sidewalks questioning everyone

they saw; Cooper and Linda were knocking on doors until the final hours; Officer Misty Collins rounded up her partners at the SPCA and Animal Services and drove the nighttime streets at every opportunity searching for our boy. Through e-mail announcements, the word crossed groups and the folks at Virginia German Shepherd Rescue and the Hampton Roads Pet Therapy Group joined the search. My coworkers at Fort Monroe pulled in the Army marketing person, created a plan and contacted the Channel 10 to pitch the story.

The support kept coming. A pet psychic was brought in, search & rescue teams were contacted (unfortunately they are trained to ignore scents of other dogs), and WAVY News 10 even picked the story up. In addition to making the evening news, Dakota was the top story on their web site for two days straight. Then there were the "prayer warriors." Hundreds of prayers were offered up on Dakota's behalf. His name was added to congregational prayer lists across the country (which sometimes required omitting the fact that he is a dog), and a country vet in our Missouri hometown drove 2 1/2 hours to have a Mass said on Dakota's behalf.

Thanks to your help and the folks at the James River Country Club, Dakota was found after 4 long days and is now home and well on his way to a successful recovery. After patching up his paw, the Vet kept him only 1 night after x-rays showed no broken bones. He walked like a 100 yr old man and slept on his pillow for most of the first two days, then slowly started getting his energy back. When he woke up to 15 inches of snow one day, he forgot all about his sore paw and celebrated the "candy" that seemed to have rained out of the sky for him. For now, his bandage is changed every two days but we hope to be done with that within a week. Meanwhile, his various other nicks and scrapes are healing up nicely and his new vocalizations that he seems to have picked up during his jaunt (from loud yawns to sleep barking) are keeping his family entertained. To see some pictures from the last couple of weeks, please visit: <http://pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/braddlisan/album?.dir=/8d0d&.src=ph&.tok=ph6uDVCB30WT4LgA>.

Dakota is bored with convalescing and desperately misses his friends from the Bark Park. In a few short weeks he hopes to see you there himself so he can tell all of his buddies about his adventure, wrestle with Sam, and get the down-low from Suki on where the stinky stuff is buried. To say that we are grateful can never begin to express how we feel. The closest we can come is to say we are humbled. This began as a dog who let himself out of daycare to find his way home, but it ended with a community of the finest people we've known who came together to make a miracle happen. You all have a very special place in our hearts, and though we pray that you will never have a similar experience, please know that we will be there for you if you do.

Sincerely,  
Bradd, Deidre and Dakota Anderson

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## WHAT TO DO ABOUT WINTER AND WHERE IS SUMMER????

With winter here and the hours of the bark parks being shortened due to the shorter daylight hours things have really slowed down at the parks with the exception of the weekends. Do you have an idea for a fundraiser or just a fun time for all of us to get together? Pet Supplies "Plus" has donated some of their overstock inventory so that we can have another auction - anybody interested in doing that before winter ends? Or, do you want to wait for spring? Let me know! Meantime I'm going back into hibernation mode. (YAWWWWWWNN!) To wake me up with your great ideas email me at this address or see below for phone number!

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## **IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES THIS WINTER - HERE'S ONE!**

### **The Event & Background**

A beach replenishment program at Salt Ponds includes stabilizing the dune damaged by Hurricane Isabel. The City of Hampton will plant 48,000 sprigs of American Beach grass along a half a mile of dune tops on Saturday, January 22 beginning at 9 a.m. Hundreds of volunteers are sought for assistance with planting. The project is part of an Army Corps of Engineers replenishment program. Geotubes—filled with sand—are in place. Spreading sand over the tubes and the beach will begin in March. (The newly planted area will not be affected.) Sometime next year, a follow-up planting will secure the dune slopes. That and adding widening the beach will reduce the chance of future damage. City employees will do a trial run the day before to prepare the site and work out logistics. The effort Saturday is expected to take all day, however, volunteers are asked to sign up in advance so we can plan supplies and logistics. Refreshments and port-a-john facility will be provided. **For more information on volunteering, contact Hampton Environmental Relations at 727-6325 or email [ccopper@hampton.gov](mailto:ccopper@hampton.gov)**

### **Directions to Buckroe Beach**

From I-64 take the first exit out of the Southside tunnel or the last exit on the peninsula before the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel. Take a left onto Mallory Street. Follow it through Phoebus, across Mercury Boulevard about 24 blocks or so, take a right onto Pembroke Avenue which puts you at Buckroe Beach. (From other parts of Hampton, from Aberdeen Rd, Powhatan Pkwy, Queen Street, LaSalle, Armistead, King Street—take a left onto Pembroke heading east. This will take you straight to Buckroe Beach.

### **Park & Shuttle**

Park at Buckroe Beach and we'll have a shuttle running to the work site at Salt Ponds (which is at the dead end of north first street where there's no parking).

### **Weather**

Dress for the weather. And keep my phone number handy (727-6325). If we must postpone due to weather, I'll leave an announcement on my phone. We may work in a light rain, but if it's a downpour, the raindate is the following day, same times.

### **Arrival Time**

Please plan to arrive around 10 a.m.? We're trying to stagger the waves a little to allow for training and registration.

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## **THE VOLUNTEER CENTER**

For more information on volunteer opportunities please contact Carolyn Kincaid at The Volunteer Center. Phone: 757-262-0190 Fax: 757-262-0725. You can also email her at [ckincaid@volunteerpeninsula.org](mailto:ckincaid@volunteerpeninsula.org) or, visit their webpage at: [www.volunteerpeninsula.org](http://www.volunteerpeninsula.org).

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That's all the news for now!

And, as always, if you know a member who doesn't have email or isn't on the list please print a copy of this for them and encourage them to sign up for the newsletter!

See you at the parks!  
Phyllis

Mission Statement: The "Friends of Hampton's Bark Parks" was established to provide hands-on help, as well as, financial support to the bark parks in the City of Hampton, Virginia to help with improvements and maintenance. The long-range goal of the organization is to establish, staff, and fund an emergency storm shelter in Hampton where residents (bark park members and non-members) will be able to go with their pets during life-threatening storms.

Friends of Hampton's Bark Parks, 13 Ranalet Drive, Hampton, VA, 23664. If you have any questions please feel free to call Phyllis Flanders at 757/851-8614 or email her at [epflanders@aol.com](mailto:epflanders@aol.com).